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ST. CLAIR RARE BULB GARDENS

AUTUMN • 1937



*Bulbs from the Ends
of the Earth*

Box 1442

Richmond, California, U. S. A.

FOREWORD

We take pleasure in offering you the scarce and lovely plants described in this autumn catalogue for 1937.

St. Clair Rare Bulb Gardens specialize in hard-to-get plants, plants that are described and praised in magazine articles and horticultural books, but are seldom offered by dealers. Our list increases from year to year as we succeed in obtaining new species and varieties from abroad. At present, in addition to the plants listed in our catalogue, we are growing and testing some 500 others, plants either raised from imported seed or brought in under special permit from the U. S. Bureau of Plant Quarantine. Let us know if you are interested in any bulbous plant and have been unable to obtain it; we may have a few specimens for sale or be able to get it for you.

Thus far we have confined ourselves to plants of the Iris, Lily, and Amaryllis families, to hardy Cyclamen, to Paeonia species, and to a few choice plants of the Protea family. We handle no Lily species, leaving them to specialists in that field, and **our efforts are directed primarily to introducing new plants that can thrive and produce fine blossoms in the Pacific Coast climate with a minimum of care on the part of the gardener.**

Our stock of these rarities is necessarily small, and early ordering will be desirable in order to avoid disappointment. All bulbs we send out are first class blooming size and are healthy specimens that should succeed with reasonable care.

Garden Clubs: Please write for our special offer to Garden Club members.

MARGARET ST. CLAIR,
RAYMOND ST. CLAIR, F. R. H. S.,

Member: South African Botanical Society,
American Amaryllis Society.

TERMS OF BUSINESS

Remittance in full must accompany orders as we cannot ship perishable bulbs C. O. D. We do not assume responsibility for the safe receipt of coins or currency, but stamps are accepted for amounts of \$1 or under.

Postage. We prepay postage or express charges for California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada or Arizona on all orders over \$2. If your order is less, please add 25 cents extra to cover postage and handling expense. Other states add 15% of order to cover extra postage; we refund any excess.

Guarantee. We give no warranty, express or implied, as to description, quality, productiveness, or any other matter of any bulbs or plants we sell and we will not be responsible in any way for the crop. Any complaints, however, will be met with a spirit of fairness as it is our desire that you succeed in growing the choice plants we send you. Planting instructions are given on page 11 of this catalogue and if these are followed you should have no difficulty.

Quantities. Not less than 6 of a variety or species at the dozen rate. Less than that number will be priced at the rate of one tenth of the dozen price for each bulb; 50 or more take the hundred rate.

Substitutions. We do not substitute unless you so authorize, except in the case of our bargain collections. Your remittance will be returned at once if our stock of an item is exhausted. Stocks of the rarities we offer are necessarily strictly limited; very early ordering is desirable in order to avoid disappointment.

Delivery Dates. We acknowledge all orders on receipt and will inform you at that time of the approximate shipping date so that you may have the ground ready to receive the bulbs when they arrive. Order at once so that you can plant at the proper time.

Sales Tax. California customers will kindly add 3% of the value of their orders to cover the Retail Sales Tax.

Free Bulbs. Send us the names and addresses of several of your friends with your order and we shall include a few interesting rarities, our choice, as evidence of our appreciation.

Bulbs from the Ends of the Earth

ALSTROEMERIA. Amaryllis family.

Alstroemeria pelegria alba. Ht. 12"

\$4 per 12

"White Lily of the Incas." Clear, chaste white, a pure and unspotted color. Splendid in the half-shady border, or a marvellous pot plant. Superb as a cut flower.

The odd, tuberous roots should be planted with their crowns 6" below the surface in partial shade and in a well drained sandy soil rich in humus, where they should remain undisturbed for many years. Keep dry during the summer after the foliage dies down. Protect from frost with a mulch of leaves. Handle the roots carefully as they are fragile.

BABIANA. Iris family.

In South Africa called Babiaantje, or Baboon Flower. These gay little spring-flowering bulbs are of nearly every color or combination of colors and many of them are delightfully scented. Their attractive foliage is hairy and heavily plaited. In Africa, baboons devour the corms, hence the name.

They are reasonably hardy out of doors in California and may remain continuously in the ground, though they do better if lifted and replanted every second year. Full sun, and a dry baking in summer.

Babiana plicata. Ht. 4-6".

\$8.00 per 100

\$1.25 per 12

Big, wide-open lavender-blue flowers, throat creamy white, flecked with crimson. They have a delicious freesia-like fragrance, are early flowering, and low growing.

Babiana stricta, var. rubro-cyanea. Ht. 8".

\$3.50 per 12

One of the most beautiful members of a beautiful genus. Flowers of intense, deep blue, with a large and glowing crimson center. Exquisite, and very scarce.

Babiana sulphurea. Ht. 12"

\$1.75 per 12

The biggest of the Babianas, though still low growing. Of a delightfully fresh cream and yellow color, the flowers appear early and emit a pleasantly strong spicy fragrance.

BESSERA. Lily family.

Bessera elegans. 18-24"

\$2.75 per 12

Mexican Coral Drops, newly introduced. Dainty bell-shaped flowers, orange red outside, creamy white with orange stripe inside, with blue stamens hang in graceful umbels. Their mode

BESSERA (Cont.)

of growth suggests the burst of a small rocket, and the slim wiry stems are ideal for cutting. Blooms freely from July to late September.

Should be dug in winter except in milder climates. Needs water throughout the summer.

CHLIDANTHUS. Amaryllis family.

Chlidanthus fragrans. Ht. 12-15" **\$2.50 per 12**

An excellent summer blooming plant from the Andes. Flowers are bright yellow trumpet-shaped, resembling an Amaryllis in form. Has a strong and pleasant fragrance, and cuts well. Bulbs must be kept dry during winter, and protected from frost.

IRIS. Iris family.

This elegant genus needs no introduction or praise. Those, however, who have grown only the improved tall bearded "German" Irises will be pleasantly astonished at the perfection of form and the purity of color of the wild species, two of which are offered below.

These two are admirably adapted to the climate of the Pacific Slope where they revel in the wet winters and bone dry summers. Full sun, and a little lime or old mortar rubble well worked into the soil are their only requirements.

Iris Hoogiana. Regelia Section. Ht. 2-3 ft. **50c each**

The large, clear blue flowers have a masterly grace and smoothness of color, with a conspicuous golden beard to set off the clear azure of the standards and falls. Rightly does the late W. R. Dykes call this distinguished Iris "the most aristocratic of all Irises." It comes from Turkestan in Central Asia.

Iris unguicularis. (Syn. **stylosa**). Apogon section. Ht. 8-12". **25c ea.**

Bright lilac flowers, enchantingly veined and exhaling a soft, spring-like fragrance, open in close succession from November to March in congenial climates. Cut in bud and arranged in low bowls, they are delightful. Algiers.

IXIA. Iris family.

Ixias are rapidly attaining a widespread popularity as spring-flowering bulbs. The lovely hybrids and varieties listed below exhibit a wide range of color and are of the easiest culture. They are splendid for cutting; a long succession of buds open in water and the individual flowers are long lasting. Many are scented.

They are hardy in a normal California winter, and will even come through a more severe winter if planted late and well mulched with litter.

Ixia incarnata. Ht. 18-24". **\$1.75 per 12**

Only recently introduced from Africa. Strongly and pleasantly scented of Freesias, its pale blue flowers make admirable subjects for cutting. Unlike other Ixias, the flowers do not close at night.



IXIA BLOEM ERF HYBRIDS
(See page 5)

Ixia Bloem Erf. Ht. 4-5 ft. **\$7.00 per 100** **\$1 per 12**

New hybrids from South Africa. Wiry stems bear a raceme of 20-40 flowers with several smaller branches below. The color varies from white through shades of pink, overlaid with a bluish tinge. Excellent cut flowers, lasting well in water.

Ixia, named hybrids. Ht. 12-24". **\$6.00 per 100** **\$1 per 12**

A splendid race of named hybrids from the Netherlands. Tall and sturdy, they are striking in the border and ideal for cutting. Their gay colors are often enhanced by a spicy perfume.

Bridesmaid. Large globular white flowers, crimson center, very free flowering.

Bucephalus major. (Syn. **Hector**). Beautiful, rich crimson-claret color. Extra fine.

Conqueror. Orange-red, inside deep yellow. A showy variety.

Englishton. Long flowers of a lovely old-rose color. Very free-flowering.

BULBS FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

IXIA HYBRIDS (Cont.)

- Grand Duc.** Creamy white, streaked and blotched with carmine.
- Hogarth.** Large flowered. Creamy yellow, with a purple eye. Very fine.
- Hubert.** Coppery red with a violet shade, very free flowering.
- Invincible.** (Syn. **Monarch**). Carmine purple, extra large and fine.
- Marvellous.** Yellow, exterior orange, with a violet eye.
- Rossini.** Fine deep pink.
- Vulcan.** Scarlet, shaded orange-red, a striking variety.
- Wonder.** (Syn. **rosea plena**). Unusual double flower. Brilliant pink.

LYCORIS. Amaryllis family.

Lycoris radiata. Ht. 12-18". **\$2.50 per 12**

Elegant Nerine-like flowers of flaring red. Blooms in autumn before the leaves appear. Free blooming and cuts well. China and Japan. May be left in the ground for several years if kept dry during the summer, and will form large clumps.

MILLA. Lily family.

Milla biflora. Ht. 12-18". **\$15 per 100. \$2.75 per 12**

New introduction from Mexico, where the country people call it Estrellitas or Little Stars. Showy white flowers of a wax-like texture open out to 6 pointed stars with a stripe of soft apple-green on the outside of each petal. Stems wiry, bearing 2-7 flowers each. Pleasantly fragrant, and splendid for cutting, as the hexagonal form of buds and flowers and the outside striping are attractively modernistic and unusual.

MORAEA. Iris family.

Africa and Australia. Scarce and desirable plants, in form closely resembling Irises. In most species the flowers last only a day, but they are produced in such close succession that the plant is seldom without bloom during its flowering season. Splendid for cutting. Reasonably hardy in California and they want a dry summer baking.

Moraea glaucopis. (Syn. **Iris pavonia**.) Ht. 10-15". **\$1.50 per 12**

The Peacock Iris. Delicious little species, very free-blooming and admirable for pots, borders, or rockeries. Three white petals, each marked with a vivid sky-blue peacock's eye.

Moraea isopetala. Ht. 6-8". **\$2 per 12**

New. Slender branching plant of low stature. Flowers similar to those of *M. polystachya* but of a richer, deeper lavender. Especially recommended for rock gardens.

Moraea polystachya. Ht. 18-24". **\$2 per 12**

New. Slender plants covered with innumerable butterfly flowers of soft mauve pencilled Parma violet. The graceful wiry stems are particularly suited to modern flower arrangements. Blooms continuously for 3-4 months in established clumps.



MORAEA POLYSTACHYA
(See page 6)

NERINE. Amaryllis family.

Nerine filifolia. Ht. 12-15".

\$1.50 per 12

Charming autumn-blooming plants from Cape Province. The dark pink flowers are borne on stems that overtop the narrow, thread-like foliage. The segments are delicately fringed and the pistils and stamens extending beyond the petals lend an airy grace to the flowers.

STREPTANTHERA. Iris family.

Streptanthera cuprea. Ht. 6-8".

\$8 per 100

\$1.50 per 12

Strikingly unusual and beautiful; the flowers open out flat and are of a brilliant tangerine color with a central eye of petunia violet edged with black. Hardier than Freesias and more brilliant than Sparaxis. Each bulb produces several spikes during March and April. South Africa. Award of Garden Merit, R. H. S.



Try Portulaca or one of the Thymes as a ground cover for bulbs. They do not mind summer drought and are pleasant plants.

Do not allow your bulbs to set seed; it will lessen next year's bloom.



NERINE FILIFOLIA
(See page 7)

TRITELEIA. Lily family.

Triteleia uniflora violacea. (Syns. **Milla uniflora** and **Brodiaea uniflora**). **75c per 12**

Produces in early spring Chionodoxa-like, pale violet-blue flowers. It is delightfully fragrant, though the stems when crushed have an odor of garlic. Excellent for the rockery or under shrubs and trees where they spread with great rapidity. They are perfectly hardy in the West. Buenos Ayres.

TULIPA. Lily family.

The wild species of Tulipa are among the finest of bulbous plants. Their informal grace and their clear, bright colors make them admirable subjects for borders, while the flowers, when cut, hold up in water for several days.

Tulipa acuminata. (Syns. **stenopetala** and **cornuta**). Ht. 15".
\$12 per 100 \$2 per 12

The Horned Tulip. A bizarre and fascinating pseudo-species with long petals tapering to a thin point, never more than a half inch broad. They are yellow, streaked with orange-scarlet, and are wonderful for cutting, one or two making a striking corsage.

Tulipa chrysantha. Ht. 8". **\$15.00 per 100 \$2 per 12**

A delightful little Himalayan Tulip bearing dainty flowers. The petals are rich golden yellow inside, shaded cherry-rose outside.

BULBS FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Tulipa Clusiana. Ht. 14". **\$6 per 100** **75c per 12**

Not especially rare, but beautiful when well grown. White flowers with striking red stripes outside the petals, dark blue at the base within. A lovely flower, requiring dry summer heat and a light and well drained soil. Southern Europe.

Tulipa Fosteriana. Ht. 16" **\$20 per 100** **\$2.50 per 12**

There is no Tulipa species more magnificent. The immense, goblet-shaped flowers are of a dazzling scarlet with either a black or a yellow colored base, and appear in late April on stout stems. A clump of T. Fosteriana in bloom is unbelievably brilliant, and is invariably a center of interest in any garden. Bokhara.

Tulipa Eichleri. Ht. 11". **\$1.50 per 12**

A grand Tulip from Turkestan, producing in April large crimson-scarlet flowers with a slight buff shading on the outside of the petals, and a black basal blotch edged yellow. Award of Garden Merit, R. H. S.

Tulipa turkestanica. Ht. 5-6". **\$1 per 12**

A delightful miniature, bearing many flowers from each bulb, creamy-white with a golden center. Turkestan.

Tulipa Wilsoniana. Ht. 9". **\$18 per 100** **\$2.25 per 12**

New and very rare. A brilliant and unusual shade of vivid vermillion-red with a small blue base. Charming in the rockery or grown in pots.

WATSONIA. Iris family.

Watsonias are similar to Gladioli in their habit of growth, but the flowers are of a pure trumpet-shape, arranged symmetrically around the long spike. The plants are usually of impressive size, with either evergreen or deciduous foliage. They are splendid for cutting, flower after flower in a long succession opening in water. They are hardy enough to withstand an average California winter.

Watsonia angustifolia. Pink form. Ht. 4 ft. **\$2.00 per 12**

Profusely blooming, large shell-pink flowers in spikes on stout stems in late spring. A border of these in bloom is an impressive sight. They are lovely when cut and arranged with Campanula persicifolia. Evergreen, so needs water through the summer.



For a gorgeous springtime carpet plant low-growing bulbs so thickly that they nearly touch each other. In this case, however, they should be dug every year as they increase rapidly.

Bulbs of the Amaryllis family are generally not eaten by gophers.

Stagnant water about bulbs is deadly; see that they are well drained.

The rounded end of a broom handle makes a good bulb planting tool. If the ground is too hard to use this tool it needs more digging to grow bulbs properly.

WATSONIA (Cont.)

Watsonia Dazzler. Ht. 3 ft. **\$4.50 per 12**

This grand new hybrid from Australia bears flowers of glowing orange-red during spring and summer with occasional blooms during the rest of the year. A marvelous color. Good for cutting, and an outstanding addition to the perennial border. Evergreen, needing summer watering.

WATSONIA. Mrs. Bullard's hybrids. Ht. 3 - 6 ft.

We offer a few of this splendid race of hybrids, the result of 20 years of patience and skill on the part of Mrs. J. H. Bullard of Los Angeles. They are grand plants, tall and majestic, bearing as many as 50 or 60 flowers on each stem. Evergreen.

Plant 8 - 10 inches apart as they increase rapidly.

Fanny Lyon. Ht. 5-6 ft. **\$1.50 per 12**

Early and profuse with its flowers, an exquisite shade of apricot buff.

J. J. Dean. Ht. 4-5 ft. **\$1.50 per 12**

One of the best for cutting. Large and well formed flowers of a rich rose color with violet tints and a dark throat, arranged rather closely on the stem.

Hybrids Mixed. Ht. 3-6 ft. **\$1 per 12**

Contains a dazzling array of colors; salmon, buff, pink, rose, lilac, mauve, purple, white, together with intermediate tints. An inexpensive sampler of Mrs. Bullard's work.



BARGAIN COLLECTIONS

Because of the special prices, we reserve the right to substitute other plants of equivalent value should our stock of any item be exhausted.

Ixia Collection. (See page 5)

12 each of 12 beautiful named varieties, 144 bulbs, carefully labelled, for \$10 postpaid. Value, \$12.

Half collection, 6 each, 72 bulbs, \$5.50. Value \$6.

Moraea Collection. (See page 6)

12 each of 3 species, labelled and carefully packed. Value \$5.50, for \$4.50 postpaid.

Half collection, 6 each, 18 bulbs, value \$2.75, for \$2.25.

Tulipa Collection. (See page 8)

12 each of 7 scarce and lovely Tulipa species, value \$12.00, 84 bulbs, for \$10.

Half collection, 6 each, 42 bulbs, value \$6.00, for \$5.50.



The secret of successful bulb growing; use plenty of river sand.

CULTURAL DIRECTIONS

The plants offered in this catalogue are of the easiest culture, requiring no special equipment, and will grow in any good soil. There are, however, a few things to remember.

The foliage of all bulbs is vitally essential to their well-being and it should therefore never be cut off except in very rare cases when it is desired for decoration. When it has died completely so that a gentle tug will separate it from the bulb it can be removed safely, but not before.

The depth at which to plant is dependent upon the size of the bulb, the quality of the soil—heavy clay on the one hand, or light and sandy on the other—and upon whether the bulbs are to be grown out of doors or in pots. In general, plant the bulb at a depth equal to about three times its height, shallower in heavy soil, deeper in light. If planted in pots, barely cover the bulb. Where the temperature falls to about 25° in winter, plant more deeply and mulch the surface of the ground with a thick layer of straw. If the winters are colder, plant in pots indoors or protect the bed with a frame. If planted in pots, use a light sandy soil with plenty of broken crocks at the bottom of the pot for drainage.

Prepare the bed thoroughly with as much care as you would bestow on a seed bed, and have it ready when the bulbs arrive. With the end of a stick punch holes large enough to allow an open space around the bulb, then drop a handful of river sand into each hole. Place the bulb in position in its nest of sand, and pour enough more sand on it to cover, then finish covering with soil. The sand, while not absolutely necessary, is highly desirable as it will keep the soil about the bulb sweet and well-drained, and it will be of great assistance when the bulbs are to be lifted after a few years.

South African bulbs do not need lime, but *Tulipa* species and the Irises offered will do the better for its addition. It should be well worked into the soil. If your soil is very poor you can add manure by digging out the bed to a foot or so deep and making a layer of manure with a layer of soil above so that no manure comes in contact with the bulbs. This, however, is seldom necessary; most soils can grow bulbs satisfactorily without the addition of fertilizer. In any case, do not let manure come in contact with bulbs as it will rot them.

See that all bulbs are well watered during their growing season—winter, and spring—for this is when the flower buds are gathering strength. After blooming, they can be neglected as the foliage dies down. Cultivation is not necessary except for the removal of weeds.

Plant in the sunniest spot available, except where noted in the catalogue description. The rhizomes of *I. Hoogiana* should be barely covered so that they may bake under the summer sun.

With the exceptions noted in the catalogue descriptions, all the bulbs offered need drought during the summer. Where rainy summers prevail the bulbs should be lifted after the foliage has died down and stored in dry sand in a warm spot sheltered from rain. It will be noted that these cultural requirements are fully met by the normal climatic cycle prevailing in the Pacific States.

Garden Notes

Keep a record of your order:

